



Highlights

More than 90 days

The Air Force clarifies AEF deployment lengths. See Page 2.

Range Road closure

Beginning Monday, the north end of Range Road closes to through traffic. See Page 3.

Mailing deadlines

International mailing deadlines are approaching fast. See Page 11.

Holiday pet safety

Don't let Fluffy or Fido chew on the holiday ornaments. See Page 14.

A day at the hospital

Picture page snapshot of life in the hospital. See Page 16.

Tree lighting ceremony

Sunday at the Chapel there will be a Children's Christmas Program and the Nellis Tree Lighting Ceremony beginning at 5 p.m



Photo by Airman 1st Class James May

Weapons School graduates with a bang

Left, Petty Officer 2nd Class Deric Pallister and Petty Officer 2nd Class Arthur Volkman, both from VAQ-140 Patriots Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, Wa., verify electrical voltage from a transformer rectifier on an EA-6B Prowler.



Air Force officials provide AEF cycle clarification

By Lt. Col. Bryan Holt
AEF Center Public Affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFPN) — As the Air Force prepares to enter the next Aerospace Expeditionary Force cycle, Air Force officials want to ensure airmen know what to expect for the length of their deployments.

Aerospace Expeditionary Force Center officials said the 15-month AEF cycle more accurately translates into three-month rotations instead of the 90-day concept.

The clarification is designed to provide even more predictability for the upcoming second AEF cycle, which begins today.

"One of the primary purposes of the AEF is to provide predictability in the lives of our airmen and their families," said Brig.

Gen. Dennis Larsen, AEF Center commander. "We're achieving this by putting the deployable Air Force members on a 15-month rotational schedule and ensuring those tasked know when they

members who have made leisure and family plans on the 91st day," Gen. Larsen said. "We wanted to ensure we educate all of our Air Force members on this issue."

For instance, in the AEF cycle,

include travel time or overlap with departing units, if required, Gen. Larsen explained. "People will most likely be deployed beyond exactly 91 days," he said.

"While we've clarified the terminology to describe AEF deployments, the Air Force leadership remains committed to the three-month tour length of a standard steady-state contingency (temporary duty)," Gen. Larsen said. "This is just an additional step to educate our people on future AEF deployments."

The AEF Center, located at Langley Air Force Base, Va., plans, configures, schedules, prepares and assesses the aerospace expeditionary forces while providing stability and predictability for Air Force people and their families.

"One of the primary purposes of the AEF is to provide predictability in the lives of our airmen and their families"

Brig. Gen. Dennis Larsen
commander Aerospace Expeditionary Force Center

are eligible to deploy.

The AEF goal is one three-month contingency deployment every 15 months; however, the strict interpretation of the "90 days" terminology may have caused some confusion, officials said.

"We've heard of some Air Force

five three-month deployments cover 455 days; however, five 90-day deployments only cover 450 days. In order to accommodate this five-day difference, each AEF deployment in the area of responsibility runs 91 days. The three-month schedule doesn't

Final phase of Weapons School kicks off

The mission employment phase of the U.S. Air Force Weapons School training began Tuesday and runs through Dec. 13.

The mission employment phase of the school's training tasks students to integrate their particular skills with others to employ weapons systems such as fighters, bombers and helicopters. The knowledge and practical skills the students have attained through the school are put to the test.

The Weapons School takes highly skilled individuals and teaches them in depth about specific areas of an airframe,

heightening their current level of expertise. The students in turn disseminate that knowledge once they return to their home stations.

After six months of grueling academic, flying and practical applications, the students are prepared to take on the final phase of mission employment.

In addition to the Weapons School aircraft, many other units participate in the mission employment phase. At right is a list of the units supporting Weapons School.

Editor's note: Information compiled by Bullseye staff.

Units supporting Weapons School

Navy Fighter Attack Squadrons 82 and 86, Beaufort, S.C.
Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 134, Whidbey Island, Wash.
85th Test and Evaluation Squadron, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.
20th Fighter Squadron, Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.
Electronic Attack Squadron 140, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash.
129th Squadron, Moffet Field, Calif.
964th Airborne Air Control Squadron, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.
38th Reconnaissance Squadron, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.
12th Air Combat Control Squadron, Robbins Air Force Base, Ga.
41st Electronic Combat Squadron, Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.
German Air Force
Air Mobility Warfare Center, Fort Dix, N.J.
99th Reconnaissance Squadron, Beale Air Force Base, Calif.
1st Battalion/211th Aviation Regiment, Salt Lake City, Utah

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The deadline for article submissions to the Bullseye is Thursday prior to the following week's publication. Articles must be typed and double spaced. Also include a name and a phone number of a person to contact should questions arise. Stories should be submitted directly to the Bullseye Office in Bldg. 620, or call 652-5814. Stories can be mailed to AWFC/PAI, Nellis AFB, NV 89151-5000. Submissions may also be sent via e-mail at bullseye10@earthlink.net.

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Range Road traffic restriction to begin

By Mr. John Monroe
AWFC Public Affairs

Beginning Monday, traffic on Range Road from Las Vegas Boulevard to the base's northern property line is restricted.

Only Department of Defense registered vehicles, properly cleared contract vehicles and guests are authorized to use Range Road. All other traffic must use the new bypass roads of Sloan Road and El Campo Grande.

The gate on the Nellis northern property line closes permanently, except for military requirements.

"There is a possible safety hazard at the northern boundary gate if drivers ignore the warning signs," said Col. Del Eulberg, 99th Air Base Wing commander. "We certainly do not want to experience any accidents involving vehicles running into the closed gate."

Representatives from Nellis security forces and Nevada Highway Patrol will be available at the Las Vegas Boulevard and Range Road

intersection Monday morning to assist with problems that may arise from the new traffic pattern.

"We remind you that the change in the availability of Range Road to non-military traffic is a safety and security issue," said Col. Eulberg. "I believe the needs of the local community and the needs of Nellis will be well served by this action."

For questions or comments, contact the Air Warfare Center Public Affairs office at 652-2750.

Health care system for military seniors improves



File photo

By Gen. Michael E. Ryan
Air Force chief of staff

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Earlier this fall, I wrote an article for several retiree publications to express our full support for health care benefits for our Medicare-eligible retirees. I want to give

you an update on the results of our efforts on Capitol Hill. The Fiscal 2001 National Defense Authorization Act directly reflects the hard work and dedication of many senior leaders in Department of Defense health affairs, the services, Congress and our retiree community to push for and obtain these benefits.

Let me share a few of the highlights.

Effective Oct. 1, 2001, Medicare-eligible military retirees enrolled in Medicare Part B will be authorized military health care as full TriCare participants. This is a permanent entitlement resulting in military health care for life. For those retirees who don't have access to military facilities for their health care, TriCare will act as a "Medigap" type insurance to cover co-pays

and costs not covered by Medicare.

Military retirees over age 65 will have a multiple-option prescription drug benefit, effective April 1. They will have access to retail pharmacies, both those in the TriCare network and those that are not. Though costs vary, the maximum expense will be \$150 deductible and a 25 percent co-pay of the cost of the prescription. Seniors will also have access to the National Mail Order Pharmacy.

The TriCare Senior Prime demonstration project will be extended by an additional year. At the end of that time, the option is open to negotiate with the Health Care Financing Agency to continue the program permanently.

To ensure adequate funding for

health benefits for military seniors, an accrual financing system will be in place by Oct. 1, 2002. Similar to how we currently fund retirement benefits, this account within the Treasury Department will be dedicated solely to funding health care for military seniors. The annual budget process will not affect senior health care funding.

Great strides were made this year through legislation to provide our military seniors with an appropriate health care benefit. Now our challenge is to make the legislation a reality.

The Air Force's commitment to our seniors will not waiver. We are determined to provide a health care system that is easy to access, offers excellent health care, and brings peace of mind to our retirees.

Damaged C-130 returns from Kuwait in pieces

By Mr. Hal McKenzie
Warner Robins Air Logistics
Center Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFPN) — A 15-man team from the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron here used a 16-inch metal saw and a jury-rigged axle to prepare a wrecked C-130 at Kuwait City International Airport for loading into the hold of a modified C-5 Galaxy. The C-130 was then transported to the "boneyard" at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. Nov. 20.

The C-130 suffered damage Dec. 10 in an aborted landing at Al Jabar Air Base, Kuwait, which killed three and injured 17

aboard. The plane then diverted and made an emergency landing at KCIA.

The fuselage will be saved for evidence in the investigation and possible court martial of the pilot, said Chief Master Sgt. Steven Folkerts, chief of resource management for the 653rd CLSS.

"One thing our guys did for the judge advocate was to be very careful to take before-and-after pictures so that they can reconstruct most any part of the aircraft so they will have a good trail of evidence," he said.

Chief Folkerts said the team first had to build a temporary axle on which to move the plane, since the rear landing gear was destroyed

in the crash. They also had to remove the tail section and wings to fit into the hold of the transport. The wings and other parts, props and engines were transported separately.

Team leader Master Sgt. Joe German said he and Capt. Jack Miner of the engineering section, C-130 System Program Office, designed the 2,200-pound axle in five pieces so it could be transported. They connected the original tires and inner struts from the plane to the temporary axle beam, which was designed to bolt onto the existing tie-down points in the fuselage.

"First we removed the tail, vertical and horizontal, and all four

engines and props. Then we removed the outer wings at the production breaks, which was easy," German said.

The wing stumps still made it too wide, however, so they used a K-12 rescue saw with a 16-inch blade to cut each side flush with the fuselage. To make it fit lengthwise, they cut off the fuselage aft of the troop door. Finally, they jacked up the fuselage, removed the wood bedding on which it was resting and affixed the axle.

German said they used a Travis Air Force Base, Calif., C-5C, one of only two in the world, because, with the troop compartment removed, it has a larger cargo area than other C-5s.



Action Line

commander.action@nellis.af.mil

652-4636



Col. Del Eulberg 99th Air Base Wing commander

Nellis' Action Line is your direct line to the 99th Air Base Wing commander, Col. Del Eulberg. If you have worked through normal channels and are not satisfied

with the answer, the Action Line is your opportunity to ask questions or make suggestions about the subjects of concern to the Nellis community.

Please leave your name and phone number in case more specific information is required. You may also use our e-mail at: commander.action@nellis.af.mil. Action Lines of general interest will be published in the Bullseye; others will be answered by phone. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to solve a problem is to talk directly to the office that is responsible. This gives them a chance to help you and perhaps improve the process.

Helpful phone numbers

BX Customer Service - 644-2044

Commissary - 643-7919

Child Development Center I - 652-4241

Park only in designated areas



My question is in regards to the problem that they are currently having with the parking at the Chapel. People are continually getting tickets for parking along the curb. There hasn't been a problem with people parking there in the past. I have talked with the Chapel personnel and they seem to have problems with civil engineering getting out to designate the no-parking area. Currently, nothing is posted and that is why people continue to park along the curb. When people go to worship they come out to find there vehicle ticketed. I think that the Chapel personnel need to be a little proactive as far as putting out cones or painting the curbs red. I also have more questions and concerns about this because I don't understand why one side of the

Chapel is not a parking area, but the front where there is less room for emergency vehicles allows parking.



Chapel is not a parking area, but the front where there is less room for emergency vehicles allows parking.

good news is that a lot of folks are attending church services each Sunday. However, the problem comes with the congestion associated with people leaving one service and those arriving for another. With the number of people attending each Sunday the parking areas immediately adjacent to the church are congested with vehicles and pedestrians. To minimize the problem, the Chapel staff have asked worshipers to only park in designated locations and utilize parking next to the Air Warfare

Center and the Community Center. As you discovered, they even resorted to ticketing vehicles parked along the curb on the north side of the Chapel. You correctly pointed out that you were ticketed with little fair notice. Accordingly, the Chapel staff will not ticket vehicles where you had parked earlier until proper signage is in place. Efforts to evaluate parking and associated safety concerns were underway before your call and it shouldn't be too long before the signs are installed. Changes include designating the curb in front of the Chapel as a loading/unloading zone and the curb along the parking lot will be limited to handicap parking only. Bottom line, before and even after these changes are made, I'd ask our many Sunday worshippers to avoid congestion by parking across the street, remain on the lookout for pedestrians, and keep on attending each Sunday.



Signal at hospital manages traffic flow



I'm a relatively new arrival to Nellis, working at the Mike O'Callaghan Federal

Hospital. There have been numerous times the traffic signal at the entrance to the hospital has been quite an irritant to me. I presume many others have felt the same frustrations.

Many, many intersections throughout the Las Vegas and Henderson metro area have a left turn lane at intersections which are controlled by traffic lights and display a green light simultaneously for both the left-turn lane and the through lane(s). Below the green light for the left turn lane, however, is a sign indicating those drivers making a left turn must yield to oncoming traffic. I believe this type of left-turn sign should be installed at the entrance of the hospital, turning left off of northbound Nellis Blvd. Currently, traffic must wait for the green left-turn arrow.

Various times I have waited as long as a minute and 15 seconds for the left-turn arrow, after coming to a stop at that intersection. The vast majority of these times a driver could very safely have made

a left turn without disruption of oncoming traffic. During the "morning rush," numerous times I have been in a line of 8-10 cars awaiting the green left-turn arrow when the nearest oncoming traffic is more than half a mile away.



Thanks for your interest in suggesting improvements in traffic flow. We agree that for

most of the day, a yield on green signal would reduce wait times for vehicles waiting for the left turn arrows. However, unlike a single left turn lane, a double left turn does not lend itself to yielding. The double left turn lanes were installed as part of the original hospital project and were specified by the Nevada Department of Transportation based on the results of a traffic study. A year ago, during the design phase of the Las Vegas Blvd. widening project, we suggested that the double left turn lanes be replaced by a single left turn lane which would allow a yield left on green after the left turn green phase. They conducted another traffic study and concluded that two left turn



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Bianchi

The traffic light at the hospital is designed to handle both current and future traffic flow from Las Vegas Blvd.

lanes were necessary to handle the flow in the mornings, and therefore would not change the layout. They also expect a significant increase in southbound

Las Vegas Blvd. traffic once the beltway is connected to Interstate - 15 and Range Road and when more areas are developed by the racetrack.



Tax assistance available for Nellis community

**By Col. Timothy Wilson
Staff Judge Advocate**

Now that the holiday season is upon us, we need to consider the next, potentially more stressful event – the 2001 tax season. The Staff Judge Advocate's office will again sponsor the Nellis Tax Assistance Center, staffed with trained volunteers.

The purpose of the center is to provide free tax assistance to all active-duty members, retirees, dependents and Department of Defense employees. The tax center is a morale builder for the Nellis community, designed to save Air Force members time, money and headaches by providing them with trained unit tax advisors to assist in the preparation and filing of tax forms. All unit tax advisors are certified after a four-day course offered by the Internal Revenue Service.

The center uses the electronic filing system, allowing tax information to be directly transmitted to the IRS at the Ogden Service Center in Utah. Ogden then sends back an acceptance or rejection notice within 12 to 24 hours of the original transmission. If a taxpayer's form is rejected, one of the center's volunteers contacts him or her with further directions. Through electronic filing, taxpayers can find out almost immediately what their probable returns are and have their money placed directly into their bank accounts. Generally, taxpayers who file electronically receive their money much faster and are less likely to be audited than if they file through the mail. The Tax Assistance Center utilizes electronic filing for federal tax forms only. Unit tax advisors can provide taxpayers with state tax forms and limited assistance on their preparation.

In this era of rapid and frequent deploy-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Bianchi

Seated, Col. Timothy Wilson, Staff Judge Advocate, discusses tax laws with Capt. Chadwick Conn, Nellis tax program manager. The tax assistance office is in Bldg. 625, Room 231, and officially opens for business Jan. 29 at 8 a.m.

ments, the center is of particular value to family members of the deployed. If spouses of deployed members are filing joint returns, they need a signed power of attor-

ney, in order to file for their deployed spouse. Obtain power of attorneys from the base legal office. Likewise, if a single deployed member wants a friend or family member to file on his or her behalf, he or she also needs to provide that person with a signed power of attorney.

This year, the Tax Assistance Center officially opens for business in Bldg. 625, Room 231 Jan. 29. Taxpayers can schedule appointments. Walk-ins are accepted, but people with appointments are given priority. Due to the complexity of 1040s, taxpayers who want the center to prepare or electronically file their 1040s must schedule an appointment with a unit tax advisor. This will allow them to assist the taxpayer properly. Remember to bring all W-2s, 1099s, interest or dividends statements, mortgage statements, car registration, powers of attorney, or any other receipts or documents that may affect their returns. All taxpayers must also bring either a copy of the Social Security Card or a copy of the military ID card of each individual listed on their returns with them. Furthermore, because of the intense concentration needed for the important work of preparing tax returns, children are not allowed at the center.

The center's anticipated hours are Mondays through Fridays, 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. It closes on established goal days and holidays. Individuals requiring tax assistance prior to Jan. 29 should contact their unit tax advisor.

The center is always looking for volunteers. The IRS training program is scheduled for Jan. 16 through 20, so there is still time to sign up to attend. If you cannot attend that training session but would still like to volunteer your time, there are still plenty of ways to help. For more information, call 652-5554.



Pharmacy strives to exceed expectations

“Why does it take so long to fill my prescription? Civilian pharmacies only take a few minutes to fill prescriptions.”

Pharmacy personnel can only process a limited number of prescriptions per hour without compromising quality and patient safety. New prescriptions must be typed, filled and checked before being dispensed to the patient. Fifty-eight percent of the new prescriptions filled for the day are received between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. During lunchtime, it is easy to receive more prescriptions than can be filled by the available personnel. Civilian pharmacies typically fill less than 500 prescriptions per 24-hour day and during peak processing times their waiting times can be one to one and a half hours – or more – as well. Your pharmacy staff can receive more than four times that amount – 2,400 prescriptions per day.

Pharmacy personnel strive to exceed patient expectations. Realizing everyone’s time is valuable, and to avoid waiting in long lines, here are some suggestions:

Call in all refill prescriptions using the automated refill line at 652-5359, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Prescriptions may be phoned-in up to five days in advance. All

prescriptions phoned-in prior to 3 p.m. are ready the next duty day at the satellite pharmacy. Sometimes, the phone lines are over-



whelmed with the number of incoming calls, especially on Sundays, Mondays or after a holiday. The base phone system does not give

a busy signal. If a recorded message is not heard after the phone has rung four times, please hang up and try again.

Some days of the week are busier than others. Thursdays and Fridays traditionally are the slowest days of the week at the hospital and satellite pharmacies. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and military payday are the busiest resulting in the longest waiting times. Any day between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. is a busy time.

If patients must come in during the peak times, consider dropping off prescriptions and returning later to pick them up. There is no requirement to wait while a prescription is processed. Drop it off and return within five duty days.

The main hospital pharmacy is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. The satellite pharmacy hours are Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Both pharmacies are closed on all federal holidays.

For more information, call the pharmacy patient advocate at 653-3205.

Editor’s note: Information compiled by the 99th Medical Group’s Pharmacy staff.



IDEA program promotes improvement

People from all levels of the Air Force can receive money for their ideas

The Innovative Development for Employee Awareness, or IDEA, program, is designed to get people from all levels of the Air Force involved in improving how it does business.

The IDEA program data system has undergone continuous improvements since its inception in Oct. 1999. This user-friendly system follows the IDEA process from beginning to end and has all but replaced the hard copy suggestion form.

Initial input occurs when the submitter enters an idea in the data base. The idea then moves to the supervisor/evaluator for evaluation of the idea; and finally for approval or disapproval. The system allows all users to complete their portion of the IDEA process from their desk or office on any computer located on an Air Force installation. From the submitter to the evaluator, and on to the Manpower and Organization IDEA analyst, the system ensures all actions are accomplished quickly and with less chance for errors.

The supervisor's role has become critical in the process. It is their responsibility to determine whether an IDEA falls within the submitter's job responsibility. This point is of utmost importance, as it

directly impacts the award the submitter receives if his or her idea is approved. The unit representative has also taken on a

the appropriate technical or functional evaluators and assist their unit submitters.

The actual payment of the award shows a dramatic departure from the past by paying the submitter when the idea is approved versus when it is finally implemented.

The first emphasis of this change is to reward the submitter in a timely manner to eliminate frustration with long delays before recognition. The second emphasis is to encourage increased participation in the program.

For people who don't have access to a computer, the IDEA program continues its semi-automated system. Submitters are welcome to visit the 99th Air Base Wing Manpower and Organization Office to input their submissions.

For more information about the IDEA Program and how to submit your ideas, contact Ms. Kim Walters, 652-I-D-E-A (4332) for information and the name of your unit point of contact.

Who gets what award?

The new method of determining awards is a big improvement over its predecessor.

- The new program recognizes people who submit an idea that saves the Air Force money with a flat 15 percent of the first year savings – if the idea submitted is outside the realm of the submitter's job.
- If the idea deals with the submitter's job, then the award is three percent of the savings.
- Additionally, the award for any one idea, regardless of whether one person or ten submit it, is a maximum of \$10,000.
- For ideas where savings cannot be determined, but provide worth through intangible benefits, the submitter receives an award of \$200.

new importance. These representatives are notified of every step from submission to award payment. They forward ideas to

Editor's note: Information provided by the 99th Air Base Wing Management and Organization Office.



Santa’s Mailbag program delivers requests

Santa’s Mailbag is a program originally started at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska., in 1954 by members of the 58th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron. Today, this holiday tradition is joyfully continued by members of the 354th Operations Support Squadron Combat Weather Flight.

Each year the unit receives letters to Santa Claus and Christmas wish lists from children all around the world. They also receive many requests from

parents asking for letters to their children from Santa Claus. Volunteers from the weather flight send letters back to each child “from Santa Claus” with the official North Pole, Alaska cancellation stamp. There is no charge for the letters. Donations to help defray the cost of postage are accepted

If you know of a child who would like to receive a letter from Santa Claus, have him or her write to Santa themselves, or you may request a let-

ter on their behalf by sending a self-addressed, legal-size stamped envelope to:

Santa’s Mailbag
354 OSS/OSW
1215 Flightline Ave Ste. 100B
Eielson AFB, AK 99702-1520

Editor’s note: Information from the 354th Operations Support Squadron Combat Weather Flight, Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska.



Birth announcement

Oct. 19
Michael Francis,
9 lbs. 4 oz.,
son
of Joy and
Army Sgt.
Daniel
Lupear.



International mailing deadlines

	<u>Air letters/cards</u>	<u>Parcel Airlift</u>	<u>Surface Post</u>
Africa	Monday	Monday	Oct. 27
Asia-Pacific Rim	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Nov. 3
Austalia/New Zealand	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Nov. 3
Canada	Dec. 15	Dec. 15	Nov. 24
Caribbean	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Nov. 11
Central/South America	Monday	Monday	Nov. 3
Mexico	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Nov. 11
Europe	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Nov. 11
Middle East	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Oct. 27



As winter approaches, it is important to keep our four-legged friends...

Warm and safe

Winter and the busy holiday season can pose special risks for pets. Help pets weather the winter and stay healthy and safe by following these simple tips.

- Keep indoor pets in a dry, warm area free of drafts. If possible, elevate pet's bed off the floor.

- Provide outdoor dogs or cats with a dry, insulated pet house or shelter out of the wind. Bring pets inside if the wind chill or other weather conditions become severe.

- Staying warm requires extra calories, so feed pets accordingly when the temperature drops. Talk to a veterinarian for advice on feeding pets.

- Cats and kittens often nap on car engines for warmth. Knock on the hood and honk the horn; then wait a few seconds before starting your car.

- Pets like the smell and taste of anti-freeze, but even a very small amount can kill them. Thoroughly clean up spills at once. Tightly close containers and store them where pets cannot get to them.

- Always have fresh, clean water available for pets.

- Alcoholic beverages, holiday treats such as chocolate, and bones from poultry, pork and fish can be harmful or toxic to pets. Keep pets on regular diets.

- Many plants – including Christmas rose, holly, mistletoe, philodendron and dieffenbachia – are toxic to pets. Keep them out of pets' reach.

Remove ice, salt and caked mud from pet's paws and coat at once. Contact a veterinarian immediately if a pet is sus-



Photos by Staff Sgt. Jim Bianchi

Never let a pet chew on holiday ornaments, especially lights and tinsel.

pected of having frostbite. Frostbitten skin may turn reddish, white or gray, and it may be scaly or sloughing.

- Remember holiday decorations can be dangerous to pets. Cover or tack down electrical cords. Keep tinsel and glass ornaments out of reach. Read warnings on items like spray-on snow. Never put ribbons around a pet's neck or allow it to play with plastic or foil wrappings.

Editor's note: Information provided by Nellis Veterinary Services.



Pets require extra care during cold weather. Using an old pillow is a good way to elevate a dog's bed off drafty or cold floors. Staying warm requires extra calories, so feed pets accordingly.



Warrior of the Week

Airman 1st Class Jacob Hummel



Unit: 57th Aircraft Generation Squadron, Thunder Aircraft Maintenance Flight

Duty Title: A-10A electrical and environmental systems journeyman

Hometown: Springfield, N.H.

Time in Air Force: 2 years and 7 months

Time at Nellis: 2 years and 1 month

Hobbies: restoring vintage Volkswagens

What's my favorite Air Force memory? Participating in the U.S. Air Force 50th anniversary activities at Nellis

If I could improve one thing on Nellis? Extend Child Development Center hours to accommodate the night shift.



Photo by Airman 1st Class James May III



Photos by Airman 1st Class James May

Work continues on F-22 hangar

As part of the ongoing maintenance hangar construction project scheduled for completion in the summer of 2001, Mr. Richard Twine, Sundt Construction, Inc. safety manager, ensures the stability of rebar caps. Below, Mr. Ken Connor, operating engineer, knocks cement out of the pump.





Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Bianchi

Volunteers

Left, Ms. Grace McGruk and Ms. Oree Kendrick, Red Cross volunteers, answer questions at the information desk in the hospital. Red cross volunteer orientation is held Fridays at 10 a.m., except Dec. 22 and 29. For more information, call 652-2106.



Photo by Airman 1st Class James May

Be a hero

Staff Sgt. Jesse Merriman, 99th Medical Group, and son, Shaine Merriman adjust fishing line on the pole. Sgt. Merriman is winner of the Be a Hero weekly drawing. To join in the fun, just ask for a Be a Hero card at the following services facilities: Nellis Boys & Girls Club, Child Development Centers I & II, Library, Community Center, Enlisted and Officers' Clubs, Bowling Center, Golf Course, Outdoor Recreation and Skills Development Center.



Stay safe while winter hiking or hunting

Hiking and hunting are both excellent sports, but too often people get caught out in the woods unprepared for nature's worst.

Hiking

- ♦ Always let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- ♦ Take a friend or partner whenever possible; the buddy system is the best way to enjoy nature.

- ♦ Carry a basic survival kit. Things to include are: knife, matches, rope, water, compass, mirror, whistle, flashlight, emergency blanket and high-calorie foods.

- ♦ Mark your trail whenever possible or make mental notes of your surroundings in relation to a fixed object (i.e. a mountain, stream, power lines, etc.).

- ♦ Bring clothing for nature's changes; always include rain gear.

- ♦ Remain calm if you get lost; panicking can place you in further danger. Stay put and collect your thoughts; try to remember your trail. If it gets dark, seek shelter and use your survival kit.

Hunting

Listed below are several safety tips to make hunting an enjoyable experience that you'll live to do again and again:

- ♦ Treat every weapon as if loaded.
- ♦ Always maintain muzzle control of your firearms; keep the barrel pointed in a safe direction away from other people.
- ♦ Never carry a loaded firearm in a vehicle.
- ♦ Do not shoot your firearm in the direction of buildings or populated areas, including livestock.

- ♦ Always be sure of your target. Do not



shoot at noises in the brush, it could be your hunting partner.

- ♦ Wear hunter orange when out in the field; check state hunting regulations for any special requirements.

- ♦ Dress for extreme weather conditions; it is usually raining or snowing during hunting season, so be prepared.

- ♦ Carry a basic survival kit with you.

- ♦ If possible use the buddy system and hunt with a partner.

Editor's note: Information provided by Air Warfare Center Safety office.





Drive safe during winter

Winter driving can offer a range of challenges. Rain, snow, ice and fog can all be very difficult to deal with while driving. Two of the more difficult and common problems are fog and rain.

According to the National Transportation Safety Board, there are about 700 fog-related highway fatalities each year. The best advice for handling heavy fog is to stay home and wait for it to lift before traveling. If traveling during foggy conditions cannot be avoided, there are a few basic safety tips to follow:

Fog

- When driving in fog, allow more time for the journey.
- Check and clean your windshield, windows and lights before driving. Use windshield wipers and defrosters at all times. Using the air conditioner in conjunction with the defrosters works best.
- See and be seen. As a general rule, drivers should use low beams only.
- Maintain a safe following distance from the car ahead. Leave plenty of room for stopping.
- Slow down and keep to a safe speed. Don't be tempted to keep up with the vehicle ahead— it can give a false sense of security.
- Stay patient. Do not pass vehicles.
- Don't hunch forward over the steering wheel. Seeing is better in the normal driving position.
- Use the right side of the road for guidance.
- If the fog gets too dense, pull off the road, leave headlights on, start the flashers, turn on interior lights, and sound horn occasionally.
- Remember that fog can drift rapidly and is often patchy. People often think that fog is clearing and suddenly find themselves back in thick fog.

- Turning at an intersection in fog needs particular care. Open windows to hear oncoming vehicles. Use turn signals well beforehand and while waiting to turn. Keep the brake pedal

depressed so the brake lights are on as an extra warning.

- If possible, find an off-street parking space and never leave it on the "wrong" side of the road.

- If the vehicle breaks down, get it off the road. If this isn't possible, make sure to turn the hazard warning lights on.

Rain

When it's raining, drivers don't often recognize the hazards — until it's too late. Hydroplaning occurs when tires lose contact with the road and ride on a layer of water between the tires and the road. You may not even realize it's happening until trying to maneuver the vehicle. The chances of hydroplaning are affected by a combination of circumstances:

- Water volume. Although hydroplaning is more likely with half an inch or more of water on the road, even moisture from dew or fog can create conditions ripe for hydroplaning.

- Speed. Partial hydroplaning can occur at speeds above 30 mph. At speeds above 55 mph, tires may lose all contact with the road.

- Tires. Good tire tread can reduce the chances of hydroplaning. Tread grooves should be at least 1/16 of an inch deep. Check tires periodically by placing a penny in a tread groove with Lincoln's head upside down. If the top of his head shows, it's time to get new tires.

- Vehicle weight. A lighter vehicle gets less traction and increases the risks of hydroplaning. Also, if too much weight is concentrated in the

front or rear of a vehicle, it is more likely to hydroplane.

- Road surface. A smooth surface or roads that accumulate a lot of water create ideal hydroplaning conditions.

The chances of a vehicle hydroplaning are greatly increased after heavy rains, when water has had time to accumulate on the road. When a car starts to hydroplane, there are some simple things to do to help maintain control:

- Follow the tire tracks of the car ahead.

- Don't steer, brake or accelerate abruptly.

- Slow down and increase your following distance.

- Remain calm, ease off the gas, avoid braking and steer straight. If the vehicle skids, steer in the direction of the skid.

- Only brake after the vehicle regains contact with the road. Pump the brakes to avoid skidding or brake lockup. Drivers of cars with anti-lock brakes should keep continuous pressure on the brake pedal.

Control

There is also a simple maneuver that can help maintain control of a vehicle at higher speeds when there is standing water on the road. By shifting your vehicle's position from the center of the lane to one side of the lane, and straddling the puddles, tires always have better traction. A cool head, common sense, and knowing what to do can help prevent a disastrous mishap.

Editor's note: Information provided by Air Warfare Center Safety Office.



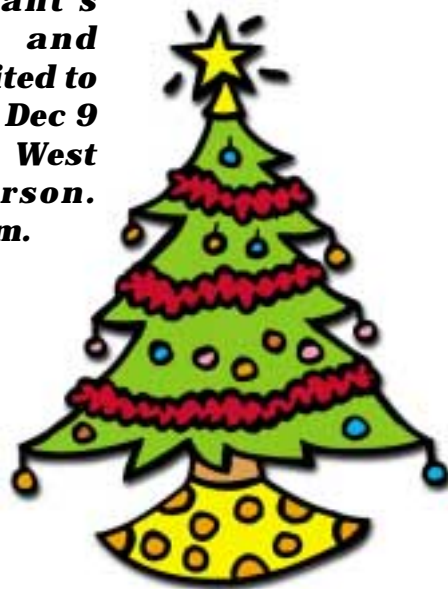


AFSA Christmas party

All Air Force Sergeant's Association members and auxiliary members are invited to the AFSA Christmas Party Dec 9 at the Country Inn 1990 West Sunset Road in Henderson. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m.

Cost is \$10 for dinner; gift exchange has a limit of \$10.

Please RSVP by calling 451-1477 or 647-9400 Dec 5.



Nellis sports briefs

Coaches needed

Youth flag football coaches are needed for the Nellis Boys & Girls Club. The season is tentatively scheduled to begin Dec. 11. All coaches attend certification training. For more information or to apply, call Mr. Bob Garcia at 652-6019.

Youth flag football

Youth flag football starts in December and registration is on going. Dependents, ages 6 through 15, of Department of Defense civilians, active-duty and retired military members can join. Cost for each player is \$30 plus activity card. A current physical and proof of age are required. For more information, call Mr. Bob Garcia at 652-6019. *Coca-Cola and Armed Forces Bank sponsor youth sports. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.*





Punt, pass and kick lands youth at pro football game

By Staff Sgt. Jim Bianchi
AWFC Public Affairs

Eleven-year-old Ryan VanBergen treated his family to an NFL game in San Diego Nov. 26, courtesy of his ability to punt, pass and kick a football. He beat out scores of children in a three-state area with his accurate arm and powerful punts.

"We heard about (the punt, pass and kick competition) through the Youth Center", said Ryan. "I was better at it than I thought."

After wining the Nellis competition, sponsored by the Youth Center, Ryan beat the Las Vegas competitors and his scores were high enough to make him an automatic winner at the regional level.

The scores from children in California, Nevada and Hawaii were judged and Ryan's were good enough to give him the chance to go on to compete at the Chargers-Chiefs game in San Diego, said Tech. Sgt. Chuck VanBergen, Nellis Air Force Base, Ryan's dad.

"This was a great opportunity for the whole family to do something together," Sgt. VanBergen said. "Tyler, our youngest, got to compete in his age group too."

"We did the real competition before the game," Ryan said. "At half-time we came out to put on a demonstration for the crowd. It was cool, everybody cheered when they thought we threw really far."

According to his mom, Mrs. Toni VanBergen, Ryan was a little nervous before the competition started.

"I got third place," Ryan said. "I was really nervous, I guess I choked."

The high point for the family was when Tyler saw the Kansas City Chief's star player, Tony Gonzalez, warming up just a few feet away. Tyler said he tried to get the players attention.

"I yelled, hey Tony will you sign my hat? He turned around and threw me a football!"

"It took a little bit of time, but we finally got it signed too," said Ms. VanBergen. "Now we have got to buy a case to put it in. Tyler would sleep with it if we let him!"

Sporting his new Chargers jersey, Ryan is proud his family got to enjoy the game with him and that his little brother got an autographed football.

"We even had great seats. We were only two rows away from the players," Ryan said. "Next year I'll do it again."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Bianchi

Ryan VanBergen demonstrates his winning form. As part of the punt, pass and kick competition, contestants competed for accuracy and distance with the regional winner competing at an NFL game.



Nellis News

"Who's Your Hero" contest

Children are encouraged to write in 100 words or less why they view their parents as heroes. One entry is selected weekly command-wide. Winners receive \$100 in on-line shopping for their hero. Go to www.servicity.com to enter. Contest ends Dec. 8. AT&T and Servicity are sponsors of this program.

Thrift Shop special

The Thrift Shop will be open Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for consignments and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for sales. The Thrift Shop currently has a nice selection of Christmas trees and decorations. Stop in Saturday and receive 50 percent off all red-tagged items. For more information, call 644-3777.

Crosswinds closure

Crosswinds Dining Facility is temporarily closed for the holiday season. It re-opens for lunch Jan. 2. For more information, call the food service office at 652-7255.

Retirement ceremonies

Everyone is invited to the retirement ceremony for Tech. Sgt. Gerald Clark, 99th Security Forces Squadron, Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the Enlisted Club. Light refreshments served. For more information, call 652-1604.

The Nellis community is invited to the retirement ceremony of Lt. Col. Kevin Klingenberg, 99th Security Forces Squadron. The ceremony is Jan. 5 at 10 a.m. at the Officers' Club.

Red Cross

Due to the holidays, Red Cross volunteer orientation is not held until Jan 5. For more information call, the Red Cross office at 652-2106.

The Red Cross community first aid and safety course begins Dec. 20 in the Red Cross conference room in Bldg. 625 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The course includes adult CPR, infant and child CPR and first aid. Advance registration and payment of the course fee are mandatory. For more information, call the Red Cross at 652-2106.

Palace Chase briefing

The next Palace Chase Air Force Reserve briefings are at 2 p.m. Dec. 13 and 27 in Bldg. 20, room 202. For more information, call Customer Service at 652-9073.

Palace Front briefing

The next Palace Front Air Force Reserve briefings are 1 p.m. Dec. 7 and 21 in Bldg. 20, room 319. For more information, call 652-4806 or 652-9423.

Nellis tops CFC goal with 106 percent

Team Nellis donated \$237,944.66 to the Combined Federal Campaign. The goal was \$225,000.



Nellis Living

Base Theater 652-5020

Show times

Unless otherwise indicated, all show times are 7 p.m. with Saturday matinees at 1 p.m. To subscribe to the e-mail mail list, send your requests to angel1m@lvcm.com.

Today

Lost Souls (R)

Winona Ryder, Ben Chaplin

Saturday

The Little Vampire

Alice Krige, James Carter

Sunday, Monday

Meet the Parents

Robert DeNiro, Ben Stiller

**** The Theater is closed Tuesday and Wednesday.****

Chapel 652-2950

Chapel holiday schedule

Protestant:

Sunday-Children's Christmas Program and Nellis Tree Lighting Ceremony, 5 p.m.

Dec. 17-Christmas Cantata 8 and 11:15 a.m.

Dec. 24-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7 and 9 p.m.

Jewish:

Dec. 22-Hanukkah begins at sundown

Catholic:

Dec. 19-Penance Service 7 p.m.

Dec. 24-Mass 9:45 a.m.

No 12:30 p.m. Mass

Christmas Schedule

Dec. 24-Christmas Eve Children's Mass 5 p.m.; Christmas Eve Midnight Mass 11 p.m.

Dec. 25-Christmas Day Mass 9:45 a.m.

No 12:30 p.m. Mass

Jan. 1-No Mass

Weekly schedule: Catholic worship

Mass: Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m.

Saturday: Reconciliation, 4 p.m.; Mass, 5 p.m.

Sunday: Mass, 9:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Protestant worship

Sunday: Gospel service, 8 a.m. Traditional service, 11:15 a.m.

Classes/Activities

Religious Education

Catholic Religious Education classes for ages 3 through 12th grade are Sundays from 8:20 to 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. For more information, call 652-5953.

RCIA, for any adult interested in becoming a Catholic, is Sundays at 1:45 p.m. in the Chapel Annex. For more information, call 651-6587.

Protestant Religious Education classes (18 months to adult) are Sundays from 9:35 to 10:50 a.m. For more information, call 652-7950.

Young Adult Ministry (formerly Singles) meets Tuesdays 6 to 7:15 p.m. in the Chapel Annex. New study begins Tuesday. For more information, call 644-6568.

Men of the Chapel meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel basement.

Protestant Youth of the Chapel meets Sundays at 1:30 p.m. in the Chapel basement.

Widows in the Neighborhood monthly activities include lunches, local tours and attending performances. For more information, call 459-1324 or 453-4858.

Bible Study is Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel Annex. For more information, call 459-1324 or 453-4858.

Christian Military Fellowship joins Officers'

Christian Fellowship in providing weekly bible studies to all ranks. To find one near you, call 656-8707.

Community Center 652-5014

Rent a Santa suit

Santa suits are available for rental at the Community Center. Cost is \$20 a day and includes belt, boot covers, wig, beard and white gloves.

Education Office 652-5280

Test taking

Study Skills and Test Taking Class schedules are available for the new fiscal year. Learn techniques on reading and remembering, studying for tests and test-taking tips.

Family Support Center 652-3327

Couples seminar

What planet are you from? Come to this continuing video presentation series to learn how to improve communication skills and enjoy a happy relationship. Sessions are Tuesday, and Dec. 12, 6 to 8 p.m.

Ready, set, grow

Class is Monday, 10 to 11 a.m. for parents of children between the ages of 3 and 36 months. Join with other parents to reinforce parenting skills and learn new ones.

Job search budgets

A career change can be expensive. How would you like to learn how to plan ahead for the high cost of a productive job search? Would you like to discover financial foundations for success? Attend this brown

bag lunch session and let the financial experts share tips to reduce your financial burden. Call now to reserve your seat for Thursday, noon to 1 p.m.

Are you fiscally fit?

Do you want to start or add to a savings or investment plan? Find money for those little extras? Wipe out debt? Come to *In and Out Budget*. This class is held Mondays from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Bring your LES or other pay statements, receipts, checkbook, bills, a calculator, etc. We'll help you compile the numbers and complete the financial readiness forms. Then we'll sign you up for a free financial check-up so you can set up your own fiscal fitness plan.

Job search

Need help with your job search or want more information about the Las Vegas job market? Come to *Job Search in Las Vegas* Tuesday 9 to 11 a.m. and see how the Career Focus Program can help with resumes, interviewing techniques and networking. Register for our easy and effective computerized job bank. Call 652-3327 to register.

Welcome to Nellis

New to the area? Want to learn more about Nellis and the local area? Come to *Welcome to Nellis* Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and meet other newcomers, learn about the local community, take a bus tour of Nellis and have a free lunch courtesy of Burger King. Child care is provided compliments of the Officer's Spouses Club. Call now for reservations.

Predeployment info

Briefings are Wednesdays from 2 to 3 p.m. This briefing is designed to help members of the Nellis community prepare for a deployment and remote assignment. It also includes the Hearts Apart Morale Call program registration. Spouses are invited and encouraged to attend.

Nellis Boys & Girls Club 652-9307

Swap Meet

The Nellis Boys & Girls Club's swap meet is Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Community Center Dock. Come out and look for bargains on slightly used items for sale.

Skills Development Center 652-2849

Holiday card class

Create 16 photo cards ready for the holidays Saturday or Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$15 and includes all supplies. Pre-registration is required.

Outdoor Recreation 652-8967

Vehicle bid

Sealed bids on a 1992 24-passenger Diamond bus are being taken at Outdoor Recreation through today. Mileage is approximately 35,000. Bidding starts at \$4,000.

Sunrise Vista 652-2602

Pro shop sale

Today through Dec. 24 all clothing, clubs, bags and shoes are 15 percent off at Sunrise Vista Golf Course's pro shop. This excludes items already on sale. Some merchandise is already up to 30 percent off.

Veterinary Office 652-2230

Vaccination clinic

The veterinary office is running a pre-holiday vaccination clinic for dogs and cats Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. For an appointment, call 652-2230.